Capital investment in paper industry

1513. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a massive capital investment will be required for paper industry in the next few years for its 7.1 % growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any technology upgradation fund similar to textiles is proposed to be provided for paper industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) The paper industry is delicensed under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. In the liberalized economic environment, investment decisions are taken by the entrepreneur based on techno-economic and commercial considerations. The paper industry has registered an average growth of 5.5% during the period 2001-2002 to 2004-2005. There is **a** need for technology upgradation of the Indian paper idnustry, on a continuous basis, to increase its competitiveness.

Steps to improve tobacco exports

1514. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not taken adequate steps to improve tobacco exports;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government is not making Virginia tobacco grown in Andhra Pradesh competitive for international export markets;

(c) what are the steps proposed by Government to increase the export potential of tobacco from the country; and

(d) the specific plans for he rest of this fiscal year?